# Carle Combat Casualty Carle October 2012



Direct from the Battlefield: TCCC Lessons Learned in Iraq and Afghanistan



## TCCC Lessons Learned in Iraq and Afghanistan

- Reports from Joint Trauma System (JTS) weekly Trauma Telecons - every Thursday morning
  - Worldwide telecon to discuss every serious casualty admitted to a Level III hospital from that w
- Published medical rep
- Armed Forces Medical Examiner's Office rep
- Feedback from doctors corpsmen, medics, and PIs



## **Training**

#### Fatal Extremity Hemorrhage

This casualty was wounded by an RPG explosion and sustained a traumatic amputation of the right forearm at the midforearm level and a right leg wound. He bled to death from his leg wound despite the placement of three fold-expedient

What could have saved

tourniquets.

him?

C.A.T. Tourniquet TCCC training for

<u>all</u>

unit members

\*Note: Medic killed

<u>at</u>

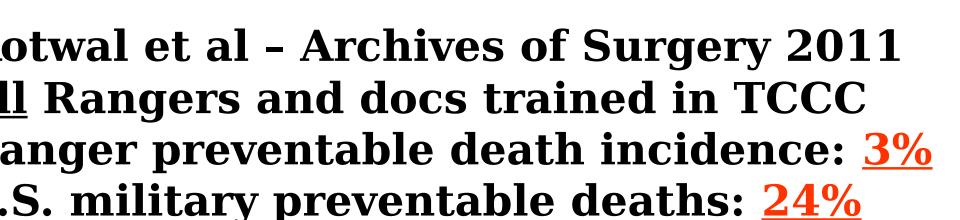
### Po Aviation Personnei Peed TCCC?

### In-Flight Tourniquet 24 June 2010

- AF Pave Hawk pilot on EVAC mission to pick up wounded UK soldier
- Gunshot wounds (GSW) both legs
- Severe bleeding R leg
- PJ crawled up into cockpit and applied tourniquet
- Bleeding controlled pilot completed mission



# Preventable Death on the Battlefield





## Forces

## Savage et al: Can J Surg

#### Conclusion

For the first time in decades, the CF has been involved in a war in which its members have participated in sustained combat operations and have suffered increasingly severe injuries. Despite this, the CF experienced the highest casualty survival rate in history. Though this success is multifactorial, the determination and resolve of CF leadership to develop and deliver comprehensive, multileveled TCCC packages to soldiers and medics is a significant reason for that and has unquestionably saved the lives of Canadian, Coalition and Afghan Security Forces. Further-



## Train ALL Combatants in TCCC

- Service medical departments responsible for training combat medical personnel only
- Line commanders must take the lead to have an effective TCCC training program for all combatants
- Ranger Fi best mode

rse is the



### Tourniquets

## Fourniquet Studies OL John Kragh USAISR

- Get tourniquets on BEFORE the onset of shock
  - Mortality is very high if casualties are already in shock before tourniquet application
- If bleeding is not controlled and distal pulse is not eliminated with first tourniquet use a second one proximal to first
  - Increasing the tourniquet V with a second tourniquet controls

### Fourniquet Studies OL John Kragh USAISR

 Tighten velcro band on tourniquets as tight as possible before starting to use windlass - a loose velcro band contributes to tourniquet malfunction

- Should be effective with approximately three degree turns of win

Use second tournique needed

### Tourniquet Case Report Afghanistan - Nov 2009

- Soldier with gunshot wound to left leg
- Open fracture left femur
- Injury to popliteal artery and vein

• Three CAT tourniquets

placed

- Life saved
- Leg doing well
- Multiple casualties ( week being saved w tourniquets



### Preventable Near-Death Event from Tourniquet Issue

- JTS Trauma Telecon 12 July 2012
- Dismounted IED attack and GSW
- Severe bleeding right leg in popliteal region
- CAT applied ineffective
- No second CAT applied initially
- Nearly bled to death from leg wound
- CPR being done on admission to MTF
- Second CAT placed at FOB effective
- Massive transfusion kidney failure dialysis at WR

## Founterfeit CAT vourniquets

• Fake CAT tourniquets that are prone to malfunction are turning up in theater - ensure that you have this NSN tourniquet:

• NSN 6515 01 521 7076







#### DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA 700 ROBBINS AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19111-5092

DSCP-FSFB 10-150 April 14, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR USAMMA, NAVMEDLOGCOM, AFMLO, MARCORSYSCOM, DMMPO.

SUBJECT: QUALITY ASSURANCE URGENT PRODUCT SAFETY ALERT.

#### 1. REFERENCES:

- A. ITEM: Tourniquet, Nonpneumatic; C-A-Tourniquet®. NSN 6515-01-521-7976.
- B. Item No(s): NAR-CAT, 30-0001 Serial/Lot No(s): N/A
- C. Manufacturer: Composite Resources, Inc., 485 Lakeshore Parkway, Rock Hill, SC
- D. Distributors:

North American Rescue Inc., 35 Tedwall Court, Greer, SC; Cardinal Health, 1430 Waukegan Road, McGaw Park, JL. Owens and Minor, 9120 Lockwood Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA; American Purchasing Services (DBA American Medical Depot) 4380 NW 135<sup>th</sup> St, Opa Locka, FL;

Phoenix Textile Corporation, 21 Commerce Drive, O'Fallon, MO

E. Authorized for procurement through DoD Supply Chain Only.

2. SAFETY ALERT: CRITICAL LIFE-SAVING ITEM.

#### Order CATs from approved distributors!



## Tourniquet on Uninjured Arm

- JTS Trauma Telecon 8 April 2010
- IED casualty
- Arrived at Kandahar with C-A-T in place on left arm
- Evaluation: no injuries sustained on left arm
- Follow-up: No explanation available
- Lessons Learned:
  - No injury = No tourniquet

#### FEEDBACK TO THE FIELD (FT2F) #11:

#### Application of the Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT)

AFMES: COL H.T. Harcke, MC, USA

Lt Col E. Mazuchowski, MC, USAF

DMMPO: CDR T. Brunstetter, MSC, USN

Maj B. Ritter, BSC, USAF

C. Wasner, Program Analyst

S. Burrows, Biomedical Electronic Technician

REVIEWER: COL (Ret) J.F. Kragh, MC, USA

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- This study focuses on the <u>routing of the CAT</u>
   friction band through its buckle. The friction band
   can be routed through one slit or both slits of the
   buckle
  - Recommended routing depends upon: (1) application (one handed or two handed) and (2) placement of the tourniquet (upper or lower extremity)



#### **BACKGROUND:**

 Friction band routing through the CAT buckle: 3 possibilities...



Inside Slit
Outside Slit

1 Slit (Inside)



1 Slit (Outside)



2 Slits



#### BACKGROUND:

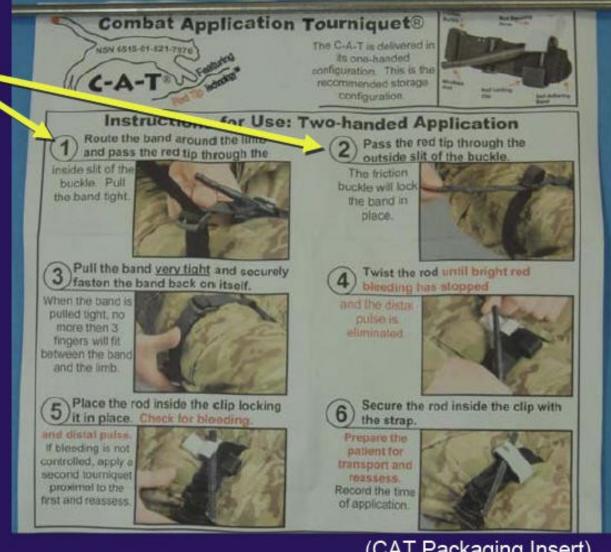




- Manufacturer ships the CAT with the friction band routed through one slit (Inside)
  - This is called the "ready to go" position



Double slit routing is used with two-handed applications



(CAT Packaging Insert)

Lower extremity applications should always have two slit routing. Single slit routing is only acceptable in the upper extremities

#### CASE SERIES:

A review of 100 CAT placements evaluated the routing of the friction band through the buckle:

- 34 (34%) were upper extremity
- 66 (66%) were lower extremity

#### DOUBLE SLIT ROUTING:

- "Routing through both openings is indicated in lower extremity use..."
- "This double-routing also keeps the band from slipping when more torque is required in use on the thigh."

[Kragh, et al. *Mil Med*, 2011]



UNCLASSIFIED

#### SUMMARY:

- Based on this sample of CAT usage, single slit routing was found in 23 of 66 (35%) of lower extremity applications
- In 7 of these 66 (11%) lower extremity applications, routing was through the outside slit, preventing double slit use

Double-slit routing for leg tourniquets!



## Tourniquet Mistakes to Avoid!

- Not using one when you should
- Using a tourniquet for minimal bleeding
- Putting it on too proximally place the TQ just above where the site of bleeding is!
- Not taking it off when indicated during TFC
- Taking it off when the casualty is in shock or has only a short transport time to the hospital
- Not making it tight enough the tourniquet should eliminate the distal

nese lessons learned have been written in blood. \*



## Eye Injuries



## Wear Your Eye Protection!

- Jan 2010
- 22 y/o near IED without eye protection
- Now blind in both eyes





eye pro - eyes OK!

Without eye pro - both eyes l

### Eye Armor - It Works!





## Penetrating Eye Trauma

- Rigid eye shield for obvious <u>or suspected</u> eye wounds - often not being done - SHIELD AND SHIP!
- Not doing this may cause permanent loss of vision - use a shield for <u>any</u> injury in or around the eye



**Shield after injury** 

No shield after injury



### **Eye Protection**





- Use your tactical eyewear to cover the injured eye if you don't have a shield.
- Using tactical eyewear in the field will



### JTTS Trauma Telecon 9 Sept 2010

 Recent case of endophthalmitis (blinding infection inside the eye)

Reminder - shield and moxifloxacin in

the field

for penetrating eye pill pack!

 Also - need to contine moxi both topically systemically in the l

• Many antibiotics <u>do</u>



- Shrapnel in right eye from IED
- Had rigid eye shield placed
- Reported as both pressure patched and as having a gauze pad placed under the eye shield without pressure - NO pressure patches on eye injuries
- Extruded uveal tissue (intraocular contents) noted at time of operative repair of globe
- Do not place gauze on injured eyes! COL Robb Mazzoli: Gauze can adhere to iris tissue and cause further extrusion when removed even if no pressure is applied

## Pressure Dressings on Eye Injuries



The <u>wrong</u> thing to do - makes a bad situation potentially much worse -



## Airways



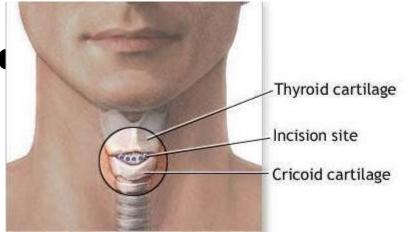
### Surgical Airways

- Joint Trauma System e-mail of 24 September 09
- 3 field crics done incorrectly in OIF
- One was done through the center of the

thyroid cartilage and through one of

the

vocal core





"The setting of the casualty care was at night in a nonpermissive environment. The medic had sustained a sacral injury and damaged his NVG's during a hard landing on infil. The casualty had sustained a gunshot wound to the jaw. The medic was not called to the scene for ten minutes due to an ongoing firefight. The jaw was shattered and he had heavy maxillofacial bleeding. The recovery position was attempted repeatedly, but the casualty refused to remain like that. Anxiolysis was attempted with Versed to facilitate maintaining the airway with position alone, but did not work. The casualty became increasingly combative and the decision was made to perform the cric out of fear of completely losing the airway during evacuation. Due to the fact that the medic's NVGs were damaged, an operator (former 18D with two successful prior combat cric's) attempted the procedure with assistance by the medic. By then all landmarks had disappeared due to



#### **Recommendations:**

- Live tissue training for this procedure if possible
- "Sim Man" trainer may be secondbest option
- Don't attempt a surgical air because the casualty is unce
- Try the "sit-up and lean forv position prior to attempting surgical airway if the casua is conscious



If you cut the endotracheal tube, you must tape it very securely or the tube will slip down into the trachea, cease to f correctly, and have surgically removed Like this one....



- Or even better
- Use the <u>right tool for the job</u>
- A cuffed cric tube with tabs that

prevent slippage

Like this one.....



- Be prepared for bleeding
- Have Combat Gauze at hand
- Vertical incision to reduce risk of

bleeding



### FEEDBACK TO THE FIELD (FT2F): CRICOTHYROTOMY OBSERVATIONS

AFMES: H T Harcke, COL, MC, USA

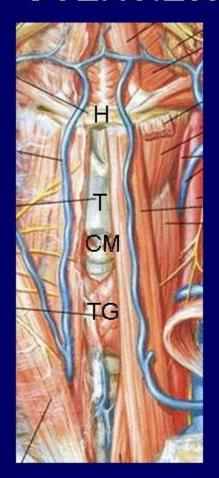
G Crawley, Lt Col, USAF, MC

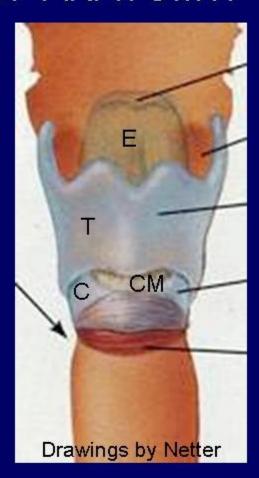
E Mazuchowski, Lt Col (Sel), USAF, MC

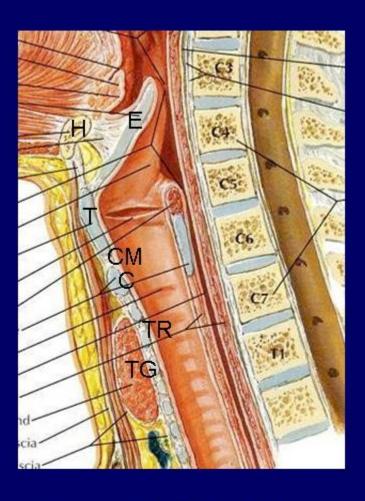
DMMPO: B Ritter, Maj, USAF, BSC, PA-C

C Shull, COL, DC, USA

#### OVERVIEW OF ANATOMY:







Key Anatomic Landmarks: Thyroid Cartilage (T), Cricoid Cartilage (C), Hyoid Bone (H), Cricothyroid Membrane (CM), Thyroid Gland (TG), Epiglottis (E), Trachea Rings (TR)

#### **ILLUSTRATIVE CASE 6**

King LT-D #4, 10 mm I.D.

Placed through neck wound above the CM - unclassifiable incision.

Tube entered the wound, passed directly into the esophagus.







#### Allway lake-nome

**#1:** 

#### Sit-Up and Lean Forward If Able

 Many casualties with isolated maxillofacial injury can protect their airways by simply sitting up, leaning

forward, spitting our the blood in their airway, and continuing to breathe in that position.

 This has saved multiple casualties discussed in the



### #2:

#### Don't Force the

· Casualtes the Land Land Casualtes the Casualtes the Casualtes and Casualtes the Casualtes and Casualtes the Casualtes and Casu

shock or severe TBI, but who have not suffered direct

airway trauma aro likoly to be the best

candidat suprag

King LT.



## Airway Take-Home #3:

#### Follow the Bubbles JTS Trauma Telecon 2011

- Casualty with a gunshot wound to the neck
- Airway was obstructed with blood
- Medic noted air bubbles coming from the tracheal wound
- No need for an incision in this case the medic put a cric tube directly into the trachea through the wound
- Held it there until the casualty got to a hospital
- Casualty did well great save
- With penetrating neck wounds, <u>follow</u>



#### **#4:**

#### Surgical Airway Technique

- Know your anatomy
- Dotted line at incision site during training
- Have the right tools for the job
- Supervised procedures before deployment - Live Tissue Training if possible
- Pulse ox in difficult airway casualties
- Reassess Reassess Reassess!



# Spinal Precautions after IED Blasts



#### IED Casualties

- IED blast casualties often have multiple mechanisms of injury
  - Blunt trauma
  - Penetrating trauma
  - Blast
  - Burns
  - Majority of casua
     are now from IEDs





# Journal of Trans

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Spinal Injuries After Improvised Explosive Device Incidents: Implications for Tactical Combat Casualty Care

Sean Comstock, MD, FRCSC, Dylan Pannell, MD, CCFP, PhD, Max Talbot, MD, FRCSC, Lisa Compton, RN, Nicholas Withers, MD, CCFP, and Homer C. Tien, MD, MSc, FRCSC

- 8% of IED casualties were found to have spinal fractures
- Almost half of these fractures were unstable and placed the casualty at risk for spinal cord injury



#### IED Casualties

• IED attack OR blunt trauma such as motor

vehicle crash with neck or back pain or

unconscious - think spinal precautions

- Try to maintain spi at all times
- C-collar AND spine

haard/litton applic



#### IED Attacks

• IED events - be alert for secondary IEDs or ground assaults after initiation of the IED





#### **Combat Gauze**



#### JTS Trauma Telecon 26 Aug 2010

- 23 y/o male
- GSW left infraclavicular area with external hemorrhage
- "Progressive deterioration"
- External hemorrhage noted to increase as casualty resuscitated in ED
- No record of Combat Gauze use
- All injuries noted to be extrapleural
- Lesson learned: see following slide



#### $Combat\ Gauze^{{}^{\text{\tiny TM}}}$



It doesn't work if you don't use it.



#### Combat Gauze TM



Point of Emphasis:

If making a pressure dressing - <u>Combat Gauze</u> should be the first layer to



#### Intraosseous Devices

#### FEEDBACK TO THE FIELD:

#### Perforation of the Sternum by an Intraosseous Infusion Device

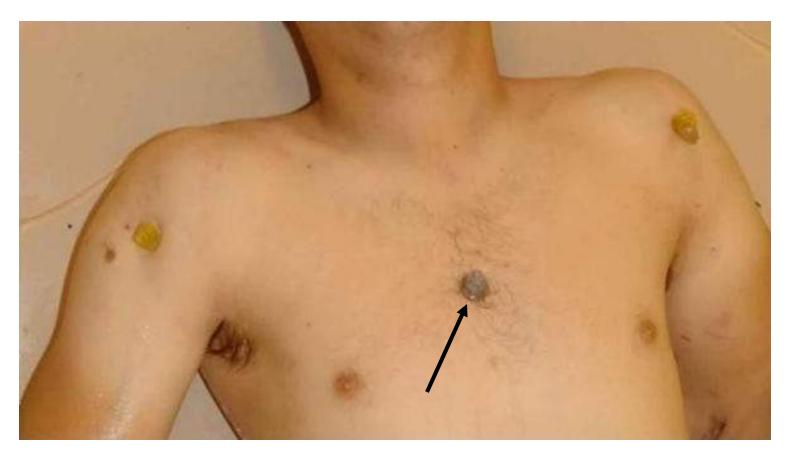
H T Harcke, COL, MC, USA Chief, Forensic Radiology Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

E Mazuchowaski, Lt Col (Sel), USAF, MC Deputy Medical Examiner Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner

#### CASE OVERVIEW

- IED detonated in the decedent's vicinity.
- Catastrophic injury to the lower extremities and pelvis, to include traumatic amputation of the lower legs.
- Emergency treatment included tourniquets, sternal IO-IV, and proximal humeral IO-IV's.

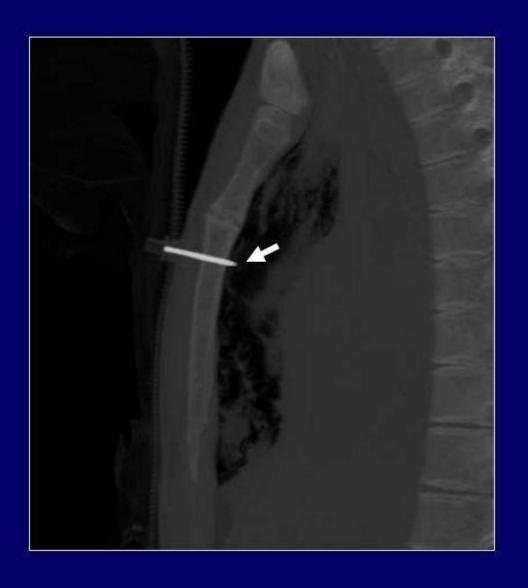




Note sternal IO in place

#### **Autopsy CT Scan**

Sagittal MDCT image shows the IO-IV needle passes through the sternum with the tip in the anterior mediastinum (arrow).



s is NOT where you want the infused fluids to g



#### IO Devices Lessons Learned

**Sternal IO** 

**Extremity IO** 



Do you really want to try to tell these two IO needles apart in the dark in a



#### Hypothermia Prevention Equipment

#### Ready Heat Skin Burns

 Do NOT place the Ready-Heat Blanket directly on the skin multiple reports of skin burns from this being done





# Toxic Products of Combustion in Burning Vehicles



## **Exposure in a Combat Medic Presentation**

- Ground vehicle convoy in Afghanistan
- Casualties inside vehicles during and after AFES discharge
  - "Smoldering" inside vehicle during casualty treatment
- Total time of exposure to fire suppression agent unknown

Possible naton

- Halon blamed for subsequent pulmonary sx in casualties and medic
- Halon off-gassing from casualties' clothing in helo?



# What is "Halon"?

- Halons are a group of chemical compounds consisting of hydrogen and carbon with linked halogens like bromine
  - There are many commercial halons with many uses, including fire suppression
  - Halon 1301 used in fire suppression systems in tactical vehicles phased out in mid-1990s
- HFC-227 is the new agent



### **Toxic Byproducts of Combustion**

- Fires in tactical vehicles can produce a variety of toxic byproducts:
  - Nitrous oxide, nitrous dioxide
  - Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide
  - Hydrofluoric acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrogen cyanide
  - -Acrolein, formaldehyde
- These are all pulmonary



# Field Treatment for Smoke and Toxic Fume Inhalation

- Prevent by removing the casualty from the burning vehicle as quickly as possible
- Pulse oximetry monitoring
- Aggressive airway management
- Documentation of smoke exposure
- Oxygen when available if oxygen saturation is low or if casualty is having respiratory difficulty



#### Analgesia



## NO Narcotic Analgesia for Casualties in Shock

- Narcotics (morphine and fentar CONTRAINDICATED for casual who are in shock or who are like go into shock; these agents may worsen their shock and increase the risk of death
- <u>Four</u> casualties in two successive weekly telecons were noted to have gotten narcotics and were in shock during transport or on admission to the MTFs
- Use <u>ketamine</u> for casualties who are in shock or at risk of going into shock but are still having significant pain



#### Case Report September 2012

- Male casualty with GSW to thigh
- Bleeding controlled by tourniquet
- In shock alert but hypotensive
- Severe pain from tourniquet
- Repeated pleas to PA to remove the tourniquet
- PA did not want to use opioids because of the shock
- Perfect candidate for ketamine analgesia



### JTS Trauma Telecon 25 October 2012

- Male casualty injured in dismounted IED attack
- Bilateral leg amputations
- Tourniquets applied to both legs by ground medic
- Bleeding initially controlled
- Casualty in shock (BP 72/46) with but 8/10 pain
- Given 100 mg ketamine pain decreased to 2/10
- Flight medic reassessed casualty



## Harris et al - Mil Med 2012

MILITARY MEDICINE, 177, 8:928, 2012

### Self-Induced Bleeding Diathesis in Soldiers at a FOB in South Eastern Afghanistan

COL Melvyn Harris, MC USAR; MAJ Robert Baba, MS USAR; LTC Richard Nahouraii, MC USAR; COL Peter Gould, AN USAR

urvey of 175 Soldiers at a FOB in SE Afghanist Do you take over-the-counter or prescription NSAIDs?"

f so, how often?



### Harris et al - Mil Med 2012

THSt - DU NU Haim

This survey exposes a previously unrecognized and undocumented near global use of NSAIDs on a military base located in a hostile zone in imminent danger. Over half of active duty soldiers surveys report daily consumption of NSAIDs that clearly is sufficient to put them at risk for coagulopathy. Combined with several times weekly use 75% of soldiers have a well-known risk factor for bleeding disorder nearly all the time.



## Harris et al - Mil Med

THSt - DU NU Haim

#### CONCLUSION

The near global consumption of NSAIDs on a FOB located in a war zone presents a modifiable risk factor for compounding bleeding disorders in wounded soldiers. Although clinically inapparent without injury or sophisticated testing, NSAID-induced bleeding diathesis likely portends greater difficulty with DCR if the soldier should be significantly injured.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Earlier platelets in DCR
- Consider restricting NSAIDs in theater
- Other analgesic choices: acetaminophen, cox-2 selective NSAIDs, tramadol



## Junctional Hemorrhage



# Dec 2011 IED Blast Injury

- 3 of 5 casualties had complex blast injuries
- None flown by MERT reportedly flown by Dustoff - rapid transport to Level II
- All 3 with high traumatic LE amputations and reported difficulty with hemorrhage control despite tourniquet use
- Combat Gauze reportedly not used
- All 3 would have been CRoC candidates
- Reported prehospital care: no IV access; no blood products; no Hextend; no IO; no TXA
- 2 of 3 required massive transfusion



## $Combat\ Gauze^{{}^{\text{\tiny TM}}}$



It doesn't work if you don't use it.

## Combat Ready Clamp



It doesn't work if you don't use it.



### Tension Pneumothorax



### J115 V1C 21 April 11

#### **Tension Pneumo**

- 19 y/o with GSW right chest (no body armor)
- Hypotensive in aircraft
- NDC done improved catheter left in but kinked
- Chest seal placed on exit wound in back
- Later found to have active bleeding from exit site chest seal saturated with blood replaced with CG
- Hypotensive in ED
- Also had recurrence of tension pneumo



## Documentation of TCCC Care

## Fill It Out!

#### **TCCC Casualty Card**

	Front		Back			
Name/Unit DTG: Friendly	ALLERG Unknown TQ TIME	NBC	A: Intact Adjunct Cric Intubated B: Chest Seal NeedleD ChestTube C: TQ Hemostatic Packed PressureDrsg FLUIDS: IV IO NS/LR 500 1000 1500 Hextend 500 1000 Other: DRUGS (Type / Dose / Route): PAIN ABX OTHER			
GSW BLAST	MVA Other		ī ————			
AVPU		_				
PULSE						
RESP	_					
BP						
DA FORM THIS, XXX HER		H Ø	First Responder's Name			

- You're not done taking care of your casualty until this is done
- Mission Commanders this is a <u>leadership</u> issue!





**Questions?** 



### **Backup Slides**



## Direct from the Battlefield

## Additional Information on Halon

## AFES Performance Criteria

PARAMETER	REQUIREMENT		
Fire Suppression	Extinguish all flames without re-flash		
Skin Burns	Less than second degree burns		
	(<2400°F-sec over 10 seconds or		
	heat flux < 3.9 cal/cm <sup>2</sup> )		
Overpressure	Less than 11.6 psi		
Agent concentration	Not to exceed LOAEL*		
Acid gasses	Less than 1,000 ppm peak		
Oxygen levels	Not below 16%		

<sup>\*</sup> LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effects Level

From MEDCOM: Swanson, Dennis, "Fire Survivability Parameters for Combat Vehicle Crewmen," Department of the Army, Office of the Surgeon General, 20 February 1987.



#### US Army Ground Vehicle Crew Compartment Halon Replacement Program (U)

- HFC-227ea
  - Heptafluoropropane (CF3CHFCF3)
  - Ozone Depletion Potential = 0
  - LOAEL = 10.5% by volume.
  - -NOAEL = 9% by volume.
  - Decomposes by reaction with high temperature (open flames, glowing metal surfaces, etc.) forming hydrofluoric acid, carbonyl fluorides, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
  - Leaves no residue

Mike Clauson and Steve McCormick, US Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command

AMSTA-TR-R / 263 Warren, MI 48397-5000 (810) 574-5948



## ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRE SUPPRESSION MECHANICS FOR HFC-227ea COMBINED WITH NaHCO<sup>3</sup>

Table 4. (U) Phase II (w/clutter) Baseline Test Data

Agent ‡	Total Weight (lbs.)	Bottle Config # x in <sup>3</sup>	IR fire-out (msec)	Video fire-out (msec)	2-Min Ave HF (ppm)	Peak HF (ppm)
1301	9.9	3x144	777-1023	750-1000	2063	10348
1301	16	4x144	159-167	150-180	1789	3483
1301	12	4x144	179-193	180-220	1472	2031
1301	10	4x144	189-268	220-250	1086	1302
FM-200	16	4x144 §	172-216	180-240	844	1051
FM-200	12	4x144	185-220	190-260	1344	1636
FM-200 + BCS 🕏	12+1	4x144	173-214	180-220	70	134

<sup>‡ -</sup> All tests used the 'standard' Army equipment bottles, valves and nozzles.

R.REED SKAGGS
U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005 Hal Cross, US Army
Aberdeen Test Center
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5059
(410) 278-5020

## Possible Fires in Tactical ehicles

- Class A fires involving air filters, canvas, paper
- Class B hydrocarbon fuel fires fed by vehicle fuel, hydraulic fluid, lubricants, and miscellaneous materials such as paint
- Class C electrical fires including batteries
- Class D ammunition fires.